



Discover Neighbors

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Discover Home

Pop Quiz...Think Fast! *Name as many of your neighbors as you can.*

How did you do? Don't worry, no one's keeping score. You are doing great if you named a couple of neighbors or more. Maybe it's that retired man across the street who loaned you his lawnmower, or the busy mom next door you wave to as she drives the kids to yet another activity. Or perhaps it's those young folks on the corner who like to shoot hoops.

But if you're like many people, you might be stumped. You may even feel a little sheepish, because instinctively we feel we ought to know our neighbors.

However, this is sometimes easier said than done in today's world. We often no longer have built-in ties to people on our block. Most of us live such busy and diverse lives we may seldom even see our neighbors.

One of our goals in the City of Longmont Neighborhood Resources Program is to help neighbors discover one another—not simply because they “should,” but because by knowing our neighbors we make our neighborhood safer, stronger and a better place to live... a place that feels like home.



Studies confirm what our instincts tell us. “It’s good to know our neighbors”. Among other things we know that:

- The largest study ever undertaken on the causes of crime and delinquency has found there are lower rates of violence in neighborhoods with a strong sense of trust, common values and cohesion among neighbors.
- With hectic schedules, we spend more time “cocooning” inside our homes. Many can afford service that we never could before, and as a consequence, we don’t meet our neighbors.
- People with the weakest social ties have significantly higher death rate than their counterparts who are more socially involved. The risk is comparable to two-pack-a-day smokers.

So how do you take that first step to get to know your neighbors? The best way is to start small, with the folks who live the closest to you. And as you approach that first door, we’re here to help you travel as far as you want to go!

Getting Started

Make the commitment to spend an hour or two to “map” your block.

That’s all it takes!

Sketch out a map of your immediate area with squares representing surrounding homes or apartments, or get a map of your block from the Neighborhood Resources Office. Then you and your neighbors can circulate the map, filling in the squares with a minimum of name, address, and phone number. You can add any additional information your neighbors are comfortable sharing, such as:

- Children, their ages and pets;
- Phone numbers in case of emergency; and
- Any tools or skills that can be shared with others.

By completing this simple exercise, you’re well on your way. If you stop here, you’ve got a great little tool to use in the event of a lost pet, drained car battery, or forgotten name.

We would like to reward you for your mapping efforts. Depending on the number of households you “map” on your block, we have several free services from which you can choose one! We want to thank you for your commitment to our community.

Map Six to Eleven Homes

Fill out a simple application. Then map at least six households and drop a copy off at the Neighborhood Resources Office. In turn, we’ll offer you one of the following:

Easy Block Party Kit

- A \$40 gift certificate from a local grocer of your choice.
- Free copying for flyers advertising your event to your neighbors.

Neighborhood Garage Sale Kit

- A voucher for a free ad in the local newspaper.
- Free copying for flyers advertising your neighborhood’s sale.

Mini-grants of up to \$50 for any social event or project benefiting your block.

- Join with one other neighbor who maps his or her block and combine a maximum of two maps for extra grant money, for a total of \$100.

A simple application form is all that’s required.

Or Map a Dozen

Want to go further? Map at least twelve households and drop a copy off at the Neighborhood Resources Office. To show our thanks, we’ll provide you and your neighbors with one of the following.

Tree planting party

- Enjoy the shade from up to three new trees on public property or HOA common area in your neighborhood. City Foresters will give you information to help you choose the sites and help you with information on how to plant do the planting.

Mini grants of up to \$100 for any social event or project benefiting your block.

- Join with one other neighbor who maps his or her block and combine a maximum of two maps for extra grant money, for a total of \$200.

Only maps created as part of the Discover Neighbors program are accepted. Previously created neighborhood directories are ineligible. All request for services or mini-grants must be submitted at least two weeks prior to your event. Neighborhood Resources Program determines the eligibility of all mini-grants. Projects that are for maintenance or upkeep, projects that have already been completed, projects that benefit only one property owner or have limited block benefit will not be eligible for funding.